IX. *Another Account of the ſame Eruption of Mount* Veſuvius: *In a Letter to* Daniel Wray, *Eſq*; *F. R. S. from Sir* Francis Haſkins Eyles Stiles, *Bart. F. R. S.*

Dear Sir, Naples, 29th Dec. 1760.

Read Feb. 5, 1761. ALL public exhibitions are prohibited for a few days, on account of the eruption of Veſuvius; and intereſt is making with the ſaint of the place, to protect the city from the miſchiefs, which the mountain is ſuppoſed to be threatening us with. There is, indeed, a very extraordinary eruption at or near the foot of the mountain; but it bodes no evil to Naples in the opinion of any, but the very timorous, who take in all poſſibilities, and who are led to imagine, from this eruption at ſuch a diſtance from the ſummit, that the ſoil, on which we ſtand, is not to be truſted. This new eruption began on the 23d inſtant: it was accompanied by a very extraordinary one at the ſummit, which I was an eye-witneſs of, from our own windows, about noon; and, I believe, this was a very few minutes after it happened. Mr. Lowther, and his companion Mr. Watſon, were, at that time, climbing the mountain, and, with the Abbate Clemente their antiquary, and ſome ruſtic guides, were arrived within fifty yards of the ſummit, when it burſt out. The flames, and the accenſed ſtones thrown up, were very terrible, by their account; ſome of the latter, as large as foot-balls, fell on their ſide; but the greater part fell on the other ſide the mountain.

The ſmoke only was viſible from our windows, the flames being concealed within the ſmoke, and alſo overpowered by the brightneſs of the ſunſhine. But this ſmoke was a moſt glorious object: for it formed an upright column, of a very great thickneſs, at firſt; but ſenſibly increaſing every moment, by freſh ſmoke, that we ſaw climbing the ſides of the column, as if the interior part was too ſolid to admit it. The height of this column anſwered in proportion to the diameter, like that of a pillar in architecture. From this you may judge of the bulk of the appearance: the column ſupported its perpendicularity near a quarter of an hour, whether from the ſtrength of the blaſt that threw it up, or from the reſiſtance made by ſo great a body to the force of the wind; perhaps from both theſe cauſes; for the latter muſt be admitted as one, if we conſider, that the power of the wind will only increaſe with the ſurface of the body to be moved, whereas the reſiſtance will be as the maſs. The upper part of this ſmoke was finely illumined, and variegated, by the ſun; and when it began to unfold itſelf, it appeared juſt as Pliny has deſcribed the eruption, that deſtroyed the naturaliſt; that is, like a branching tree; to which compariſon of his I may add this circumſtance, that the creeping of the freſh ſmoke up the ſides perfectly reſembled the undulating motion of a neſt of caterpillars, when climbing the trunk of ſome vegetable. This glorious ſight, which is itſelf almoſt worth a journey from England, did not laſt long; for, in leſs than an hour, it diffuſed itſelf, blackening all the mountain, and a large portion of the ſky; and when the wind had cleared the top of the mountain,

which

which it did ſoon after, we obſerved the ſmoke aſcending from it to be very moderate, though, if compared with that, which iſſued before the eruption, it might be ſaid to be very conſiderable.

Thus far the ſummit: now for the foot, where we obſerved, at the ſame time, a double column of ſmoke, that we judged to be an eruption, and it proved to be a very great one. The flames, and the light of the ſtream of lava that iſſued from it, became viſible after ſunſet. We went all of us the next morning (the 24th), to take a nearer view of the eruption; we took the great road to Salerno, and about ten miles from Naples, about mid-way between Torre del Greco and Torre del Annuntiata, we were ſtopped by the ſtream of lava, which had croſſed the road, and was making for the ſea. The mouths of the eruption were about a mile and half, or better, to our left, and were raging in a very frightful manner, as the noiſe of the expioſions, which ſucceeded one another, at the interval of only a ſecond or two, was equal to a ſtorm of thunder. The flames were very bright, after it was dark; and the accenſed ſtones, which were thrown up in vaſt quantities at every exploſion, reſembled the ſpringing of a mine, as they call it, in a fire-work. We ſtaid an hour or two, in the night, on the ſpot, to behold this ſight. Theſe mouths of fire ſtill continue to play; but the lava has not yet reached the ſea, though it was ſaid to be within half a mile of it, when we were there. A ſmall riſing of the ground before it has obliged it to ſpread in breadth, and its progreſs for the ſhore is very ſlow: perhaps it may not reach it, if the eruption continues, but may, by the level of the ground,

be determined to ſome other direction. The mouths are ſaid to have been fourteen in all at firſt, afterwards reduced to eight, and now, I believe, much fewer. There are three hillocks, large enough to be diſtinguiſhed at Naples, that are formed by the ſtones and matter thrown up at theſe mouths, and one of them is already a young mountain. Some imagine the eruption will laſt many months, as the lower eruptions have generally laſted longeſt; and this, I think, is a great deal lower than any that ever happened.

F. H. Eyles Stiles.

X. *Extract of a Letter from Mr.* Robert Mackinlay, *to the Right Hon. the Earl of* Morton, *F. R. S. dated at* Rome, *the 9th* January 1761. *concerning the late Eruption of Mount* Veſuvius, *and the Diſcovery of an antient Statue of* Venus *at* Rome.

Read Feb. 19, 1761.

THERE has been a moſt terrible eruption lately of mount Veſuvius, about the latter end of laſt month, but the accounts hitherto arrived are not very diſtinct: however, they all agree, that there were nine new mouths, or openings, towards the Torre del Greco and Annonciada: that very conſiderable ſhocks of an earthquake were felt all over Naples: that neither fire nor ſmoke came out of the old crater: that the lava had run into the ſea: